experimental Battery operated Buses are said to be highly successful and if so, whether Government propose to produce such buses on large-scale to cater to the needs of mass public transport in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): A pilot demonstration programme has been undertaken by the Department of *Non-Conventional Energy Sources* (DNES) in association with Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) for operations of electravans i.e. battery operated buses, in the crowded areas of Delhi. The DEDA has been operating these buses as an experimental demonstration programme. These vehicles have been found to have a limited range after each recharge and are also prone to breakdowns due to overloading. The seating capacity also is limited. DNES has plans to take up conversion of a few fullsized buses for experimental purposes under its R&D programme with co-operation of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Technology has thus as yet to be perfected and economic viability demonstrated. There is no proposal at present to produce such buses on large scale to cater to the needs of mass transport.

Honouring of freedom fighters who were Lodged in the cellular Jail at Port Blair

*411. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to honour the top freedom fighters who had spent the prime of their life in the infamous cellular jail in Port Blair during India's freedom movement:

(b) if so, the number and the details of the freedom fighters to be so honoured; and

(c) what arrangements are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The freedom fighters who suffered imprisonment in the cellular jail in Port Blair have already been honoured by sanctioning Swatantrata Sainik Saman Pension at the enhanced rate of Rs. 1,000/-p. m. The number of such freedom fighters is 285.

"Programme Generation Facility" at Goa Doordarshan Station

*412. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Programme Generation Facility " at Goa Doordarshan Station has been installed but not yet commissioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to start this Programme and the likely duration for the daily regional programmes thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) and (b) The Programme Generation Facility (PGF) set up recently at Panaji could not be commissioned into service because of non-availability of staff. Steps have however, been taken to ensure early

commencement of its operations. The set up at Panaji is envisaged to telecast locally produced programmes for a duration of about 30 minutes daily.

Contract signed with Sweden's Ericsson

*413. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a contract with Sweden's Ericasson has recently been signed by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Freedom Fighters' Role in Nation Building

*414. SHRI SURESH PACHORI:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Freedom Fighters Association, New Delhi had urged Government on May 7, 1990 to fully utilise the work force of the freedom fighters for nation-building; and

(b) if so, whether any programme has been prepared or is being worked out to utilise their services in dealing with menace like terrorism, secessionism and fundamentalism; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No communication on the subject has been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from the Freedom Fighters Association, New Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

Arrest of Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu

*415. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Tamil refugees who came from Sri Lanka and are housed in Orissa have recently started moving out of Orissa and that they have been arrested in Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Police;

(b) whether Government had held negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government for creating an atmosphere for the return of the refugees to Sri Lankas; and

(c) whether Government are committed to the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement and if so, whether the clauses in The Agreement have been fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The need to create these conditions has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government on several occasions.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government upholds and honours all international Agreements signed by India. The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement has been implemented in large measure; Tamil is now recognised as an official language of Sri Lanka; the Constitution of Sri